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MSAP
ANNUAL
REPORT

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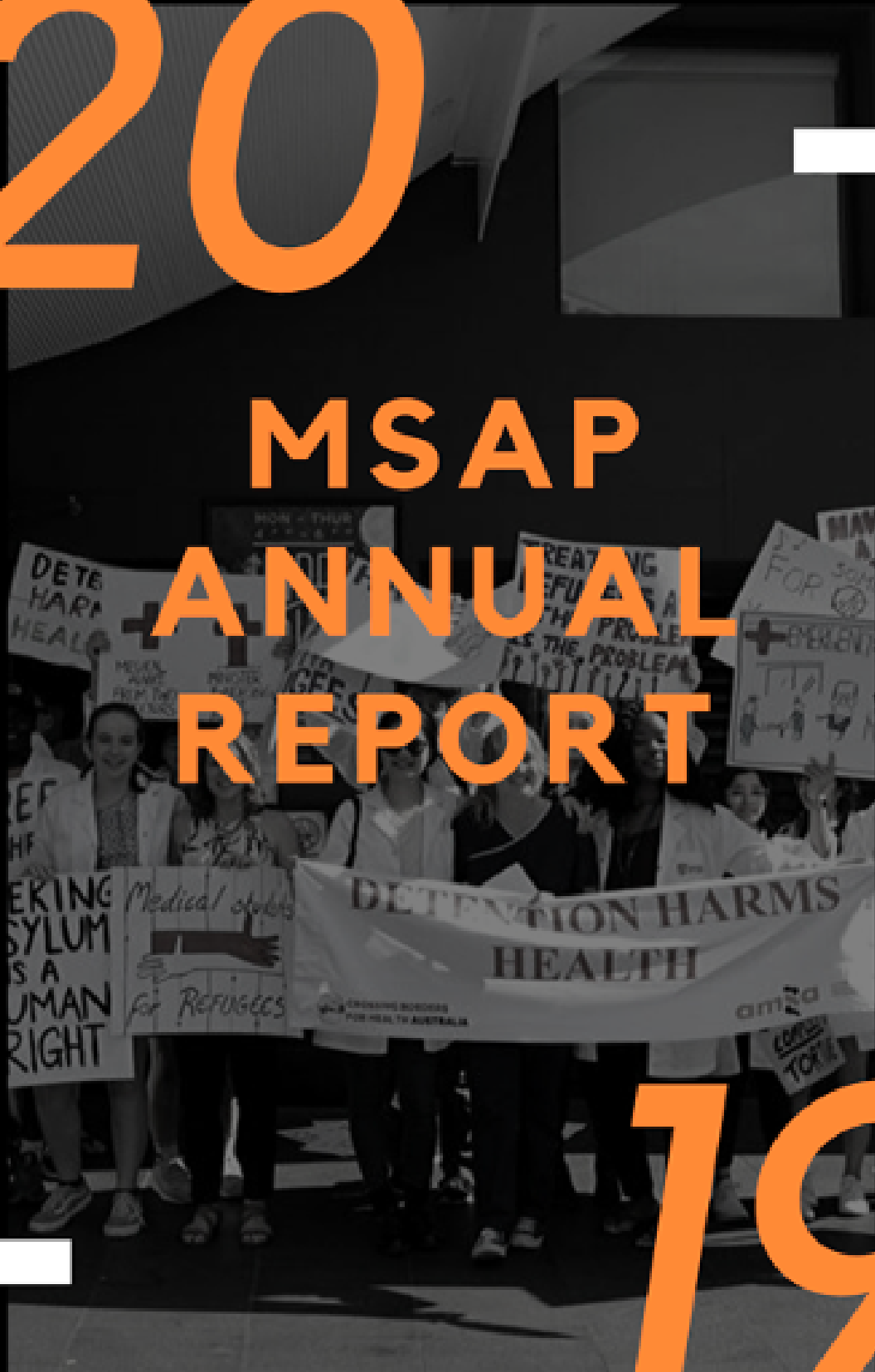


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MESSAGE FROM CHAIRS



Reflecting on MSAP's achievements in 2018 under the leadership of Co-Chairs, Isabelle and Lokesh; we had an exciting and inspiring legacy to continue as MSAP's Co-Chairs for 2019. At the beginning, the two of us decided that our focus this year would be to maintain the sustainability of the organisation by strengthening our existing projects.

We hit the ground running with our traditional triad of Launch Night, Treevia and Birthing Kit Night. At Launch Night we encouraged old and new students to join our global health journey by showcasing our success stories from the Elective Aid Program. Treevia gathered the efforts of over a hundred students to raise money for the Planet Ark Foundation, while 120 students packed an astounding 1000 birthing kits to combat maternal mortality at Birthing Kit Night.

At the Student March for Refugees, MSAP stood in unity with students as we vocalised our protest of the continuing medical crisis occurring in Australian detention centres. We maintained our momentum of students enacting change with our four week Global Health Short Course, where over 300 students attended seminars and panels focusing on 'Youth in Health,' 'Experiences in Conflict Zones,' 'War on Drugs - The Opioid Crisis' and 'How to Advocate.'

In 2019 we saw the inauguration of multiple local projects by our Code Green, Crossing Borders and Projects portfolios. Green July was a month dedicated to encouraging students to find ways to be environmentally friendly in their everyday lives. The maternal health workshop saw students learning important skills to manage cases of maternal and infant mortality under the guidance of midwives from MSF. Then at our two-part Interpreter Program with the UNSW School of Translating and Interpreting, students trained to work in collaboration with interpreters in the clinical setting.

Finally, 2019 saw an expansion of our international commitments. We continued our relationship with Medical Action Myanmar with a donation to cover patient support fees in rural Myanmar. We strengthened the sustainability of our Elective Aid Program by introducing a collaboration with Airborne Aid and adding the option of crowd-funding for students. We ended the year with our annual Alumni Night where we reached out to our old and current MSAP alumni to celebrate the incredible achievements of our students, their families and the local community in making a difference in global health.

Being Co-Chairs of MSAP was one of the most rewarding experiences of our lives. We have been humbled and inspired by the passion and dedication of each student and their efforts to make a difference in this world. We hope reading this report will give you a glimpse into their accomplishments.

Sincerely, Roshell Perera and Yuri Nwe

Who we are

OUR STORY

MSAP was established in 2001 by UNSW medical students Greg Fox and Greg Moloney. The two Gregs were inspired to set up MSAP after their elective placements in a Malawi hospital where they were made critically aware of the pitfalls of resource-poor communities. On one experience attending to a car accident victim, they opened the resuscitation box only to find a band-aid and a dead cockroach. This realisation of the stark lack of basic medical equipment in resource-poor communities motivated them to establish Medical Student's Aid Project or MSAP to initiate a medical supply project supported by the medical students at the University of New South Wales (now the Elective Aid Program). Seventeen years later, MSAP continues its legacy of supplying medical equipment around the world and has developed its role in educating and advocating for global health issues.



OUR VISION

To empower medical students to create a world with equitable, sustainable and universal healthcare

OUR MISSION

To contribute positively to global health through local and international health projects, education and advocacy.

MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

MSAP is a student-run organisation at the University of New South Wales (UNSW), Sydney, Australia. MSAP is run by a team of 17 volunteer executive members, with an additional 20 subcommittee volunteers and a general membership of over 500 students. We support our work through donations, fundraising, and where possible, sponsorship.

As the Global Health Group (GHG) of UNSW, MSAP is part of the Global Health Committee of the Australian Medical Students' Association (AMSA), which represents and coordinates medical students interested in global health.

For the first time in 2018, we have established the MSAP Board which supports the Executive team in an advisory capacity and maintains institutional memory. The MSAP Board consists of up to seven members, of which a majority are current or recently graduated UNSW students.

“*MSAP supplies
medical equipment
around the
world...educating
and advocating for
global health issues*”

MSAP Executive 2019

Co-Chairs	Roshell Perera and Yuri Nwe
Secretary	Purshainya Thirukumar
Treasurer	Tajwar Ali Khan
Sponsorship and Alumni Officer	Sally Boardman
Publicity Officer	Tiyasha Sabud
Education Officers	Mashaal Hamayun and Roshana Kanagaratnam
Electives Officers	Kith Lee and Annapoorani Muthiah
Projects Officers	Ash Li Khoo and Brenda Ng
AMSA Global Health Representative	Vivian Hu
Crossing Borders Coordinator	Rohanna Stoddart
Code Green Coordinator	Rachel Tam
First Year Representatives	Jumpei Takeuchi and Yvanna Lei

MSAP Advisory Board

Isabelle McKay	Co-Chair 2018
Lokesh Sharma	Co-Chair 2018
Carrie Lee	Co-Chair 2017
Isaac Chan	Co-Chair 2017
Pasan Pannila	Co-Chair 2016
Greg Fox	Co-Founder
Greg Moloney	Co-Founder

International Projects

ELECTIVE AID PROGRAM

Cost for 2018: \$10701.50

Funding: Charitable Donations

Projected cost for 2019: \$7000

The Elective Aid Program (EAP) is MSAP's very first and longest-running project, and is a reflection of MSAP's main goals - promoting global health at home. The EAP aims to assist fifth-year medical students embarking on their electives to provide much-needed medical equipment to resource-poor hospitals in developing nations. MSAP achieves this by providing funds and assistance in purchasing these equipment. In the recent 2018/2019 cycle, the EAP was responsible for 10,701.50 AUD worth of donations to 11 countries, including Timor Leste, South Africa, Peru, Papua New Guinea, Malawi, Myanmar, Tanzania, Sri Lanka, India, The Gambia and Solomon Islands. As for the ongoing 2019/2020 cycle, we expect to spend close to 7000 AUD for donations to 9 countries.

The program has also seen a series of key changes over the years. In 2018, two grant amounts were made available for students, a grant with a 2000 AUD cap in addition to the usual grant with a 500 AUD cap. With this change, students were able to purchase higher-impact items that would confer long-term benefits with the larger grant amount. This was demonstrated by one group of the 2018/2019 cycle that donated an ICU bed worth approximately 1500 AUD to a hospital in Uttarakhand, India.

We have also worked towards improving the financial sustainability of the EAP, given that it is MSAP's most expensive program. On this front, in 2019 we have established a new partnership with Airborne Aid Australia, a non-profit organisation that works towards reducing medical waste and the carbon footprint of transporting medical equipment to countries in need. As such, we hope this partnership will not only save costs in procuring medical equipment for donation but also make the EAP more environment-friendly. In addition, we have opened up the option of crowdfunding for students of the EAP to gain an opportunity to help fund their own donations.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Food Provision

2019 marked the 4th year that the Food for Thought project has been in operation. In the last year, we provided nutritional supplements to 183 young students at Seem Shala Jibhaipura.

New Toilets

From the funds raised over the past 3 years from our annual Diwali Mela stall and the generous donations of our supporters, we were able to fulfil our promise of new toilets! Previously, students only had 2 toilets in a state of disrepair. There are now 9 cubicles in total furnished with tiles for easy cleaning. Additionally, there are now new sinks that have been built near the toilets to encourage proper hand hygiene. The school continues to receive soap donations from a local business to consolidate our message of good hygiene.

Promotion - AMSA Journal of Global Health

In order to evaluate the success of the project, we analysed the growth metrics collected from the students from the first 2 years of the project. We were thrilled to find that student growth parameters have dramatically improved. Two-year improvements show enrolment increased by 32%, while the number of students who were stunted decreased by 16%. HAZ scores improved by 0.40 ($p < 0.001$) and WAZ scores improved by 0.40 ($p < 0.001$).

These positive results were published in the AMSA Journal of Global Health 2019 Volume I (Page 84-93). https://issuu.com/amsa-publications/docs/ajgh_volume_13_issue_1_june_2019

Fundraising - Diwali Mela

On October 22nd, we held our annual Food for Thought fundraising food stall at the Diwali Mela festival at Bella Vista Farms. We sold out of our delicious food and raised enough money to yet again fund the project for the year! We'd like to thank the hardworking and dedicated volunteers who helped make this event possible, including the MSAP officers, family members subcommittee members, MSAP alumni and the wider community. From this initiative raised enough money to continue the project for another two years!

MEDICAL ACTION MYANMAR

Cost for 2018: \$2800

Funding: Red Party and Red Week (in
conjunction with WSUs Global Health
Awareness Western Sydney)

Projected cost for 2019: \$2800



Access to healthcare in Myanmar (Burma) is difficult for those with little to spare. With an under-funded health system, healthcare is typically privatised and many people cannot afford to pay their medical expenses out-of-pocket. Medical Action Myanmar (MAM) is an international medical aid organisation dedicated to improving access to health services for the people of Myanmar. MAM is non-profit, non-political and non-religious. MAM provides comprehensive primary healthcare services including maternal and child care, malnutrition treatment, sexual and reproductive health, and tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS treatment. They operate clinics in socioeconomically disadvantaged areas to reach people who are most in need.

In 2017, MSAP began a partnership with MAM to support Orchid Clinic in the township of Hlaingthayar. MSAP believes MAM's mission and activities align with our values of healthcare equity by providing health services to those at significant disadvantages. Their emphasis on HIV/AIDS, antenatal and sexual health services also align with our interest to develop our Sexual & Reproductive Health portfolio.

In 2018, MAM proposed a nutrition program for pregnant women with low weight as a potential project MSAP could contribute towards. MAM has been running this program for two years at Orchid Clinic to provide antenatal care for women with HIV and the general population. As part of the program, women are screened for low weight using their heights, weights and mid-upper arm circumference. Those who meet the criteria are offered nutritional support with Plumpynut. If this is not tolerated, they are given dry rations. Women are supported through this program for the duration of pregnancy and up to forty-two days after delivery. In 2018, between 6-24 women are enrolled in this program every month. In November of 2018, this program was discontinued due to cessation of funding.

In 2019, MSAP decided to support this program with an annual \$2800 donation that will cover staff, equipment and logistics costs for 2020-2022. More specifically, the \$2800 donation in 2019 went towards emergency referral costs and hospital treatment fees for patients who are injecting drug users in Putao (a remote area in the northern part of Myanmar) and children with pneumonia/ TB meningitis, as well as for any maternal complications.

Local Initiatives

GLOBAL HEALTH SHORT COURSE

Cost for 2019: \$1853.63

Funding: Ticket Sales

Now one of the highlights of the annual MSAP calendar, GHSC was back again this year bigger than ever. With over 300 students from different degrees and universities registering, the academic event aimed to 'Plant the Seeds' in students' minds on how to foment change as global health advocates.

Night One kicked off with the theme 'Youth in Health' where we invited 'three under thirty' speakers to inspire our attendees with their own personal journey in global health. We heard from medical students to GP registrars to start-up founders, showing students that you can be part of change no matter your age or role. Our speakers discussed their time as a WHO intern, organising the 'Detention Harms Health Rally' and driving clinical innovation in the UK. The excitement continued on to Night Two, where we had Dr Andrew Dimitri detail his experiences in conflict zones as a Medecins Sans Frontieres doctor. That wrapped our Semester One part, with the rest following on in Semester Two.

A panel discussion on the 'War on Drugs - The Opioid Crisis' proved to be electrifying on Night Three. We had Dr Andrew McDonald, former Shadow Minister; Judge Roger Dive, Senior Judge of the Drug Court; Dr Alison Ritter, Director of the Drug Policy Modelling Program; and Danielle Wolley, KPMG Partner, provide an array of diverse and insightful perspectives. Finally, we concluded on Night 4 with our 'How To: Advocate' multi-speaker series where doctors and professionals taught students how to pitch to the media, politicians and in the elevator.

Our students left inspired, motivated and energised. Change was possible, change was within their reach. They now knew how.



DETENTION HARMS HEALTH - STUDENT MARCH FOR REFUGEES

Cost for 2019: \$150.13

Funding: MSAP Reserves

On Sunday 14 April 2019 at 2pm, UNSW medical students led the Palm Sunday Rally march through the streets of Sydney. Hundreds of medical students and health professionals made up the front guard, bearing home-made signs depicting Hippocrates message of 'Do No Harm,' and the Crossing Borders emblem of two hands grasped together: "Medical Students 4 Refugees".

Behind them was hundreds of others - all united for the biggest nationwide rally for refugee and asylum seeker health in Australia. They marched in groups formed from a huge range of different professions, political leanings, hobbies, religions and denominations, chanting "refugees are welcome here!" The streets had been cleared, and the atmosphere was extremely positive - the mounted police entourage proved overkill.

The march had fantastic turnout, although there was little acknowledgement from Canberra. The march was a protest against the medical crises continuing in Australian immigration detention centres, and Government opposition to medical transfers. The lead up to the march had included multiple banner-making nights held at universities across Sydney, and promotion campaigns aimed at informing medical peers of the poor health outcomes of those held in mandatory immigration detention. This year the Detention Harms Health march was fired with triumphant overtones after the successful passing of the Medevac legislation through parliament. While no one was under any illusion of the huge amount of work and progress to be made on refugee and asylum-seeker health impacts from Australian immigration policy, there was a definitive sense of joy and achievement for many of the student protestors. It was well-deserved.



BIRTHING KIT NIGHT

Cost for 2019: \$3020.75

Funding: Ticket Sales, Bake Sales, Bunning Sausage Sizzle, Raffle Prizes

Every single day, approximately 830 women die from preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth. 99% of these maternal deaths occur in developing countries; with mothers giving birth in unsanitary conditions or without a skilled attendant.

Birthing Kit Night, held in conjunction with Birthing Kit Foundation Australia, gives students hands-on experience in global health aid. It is a valuable opportunity for university students to make a tangible difference in maternal mortality. On 25th March 2019, 120 UNSW students collaboratively packed 1000 birthing kits, which were delivered internationally where women are living in and facing challenging circumstances, even during childbirth. Students also had the opportunity to listen to a presentation given by Zi Ying Su, a 6th year medical student with field experience of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in rural China from her electives.

MSAP purchased 1000 kits which each cost \$3 and included simple materials, such as a sterile plastic groundsheet, soap, gloves, gauze, scalpel and string to tie the umbilical cord. This year, we successfully covered the costs of the birthing kits through fundraisers and ticket sales. Three fundraisers—bake sale, Bunnings Sausage Sizzle, and raffles—were held to fund this project. Ticket sales from Maternal Health Workshop also helped cover the costs of the birthing kits.



MENTAL HEALTH WORKSHOP

Cost for 2019: \$208

Funding: Ticket Sales and AMBOSS sponsorship

Maternal mortality is a global health issue of concern, with a current ratio of 211 deaths per 100,000 live births. This is attributed to various reasons, including the lack of resources in developing countries and thus higher rates of pregnancy and childbirth complications such as postpartum haemorrhage. The scarcity of resources also results in higher neonatal complications (e.g. perinatal asphyxia) and neonatal deaths.

As medical students in the developed country of Australia, many of us are largely oblivious to this reality. To overcome this ignorance, our inaugural Maternal Health Workshop was designed in collaboration with several midwives from Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) and UNSW's Women and Children's Society. It aimed to provide an immersive, hands-on experience through three breakout stations based on their real encounters in developing countries. It also included an educational component where the Women's Health Advisor of MSF, Ms. Laura Latina, shared her extensive knowledge on the differences between maternal healthcare in Australia versus that in resource-poor countries. This was an invaluable opportunity from which participants walked away with a better sense of what health inequity really looks like.

This event successfully raised \$208 through ticket sales (22 tickets). AMBOSS, a medical learning platform, also sponsored catering at this event.



LAUNCH NIGHT

Cost for 2019: \$139.08

Funding: Ticket Prices (\$1)

Launch Night was MSAP's first event of the year and aimed to introduce the organisation to Phase 1 students as well as encourage alumni involvement with MSAP. The event invited three speakers from the George Institute Research program and one elective aid program student to showcase the different ways students can get involved in global health. The attendees were invited to walk around outside the lecture hall, where booths were set up to introduce each portfolio under MSAP. Concurrently, we held the annual "EAP Photography Competition", showcasing photographs from students on their electives in developing countries. The winning photograph by Terence Luo was showcased on the Wallace Wurth display screens to promote the far-reaching efforts of our students.



OPEN DAY STALL

Cost for 2019: \$33.83

Funding: MSAP Reserves

Based on the relatively new "healthy communities" AMSA global health initiative, the first year reps took part in educating the public on health and lifestyle issues. This was achieved by interactive activities such as asking students to add a sticker to a bar graph which best represents their sleep duration; a "guess the sugar content" game asking participants to arrange snacks in order of least to most sugar content; and a sphygmomanometer to help measure interested individuals' blood pressure. Based on observation, the most successful activity in terms of education was the snack game, as a lot of people found the sugar content of some snacks quite surprising; participants were also reminded to check portion sizes and sugar content of foods before purchasing or consuming. Although this event was a first of its kind, we hope that through increased communication between the AMSA Global Health and MSAP, this initiative can make a real impact on people's lives through sustainable event organisation and increased outreach and participation.

FIRST YEAR ENGAGEMENT

The role of first year representative provides a chance for first year students to gain an insight into MSAP and its portfolios. With the opportunity to be involved with various projects, this role is an excellent gateway into influential student activism and advocacy.

This year, first year reps assisted with the Global Health Short Course, the Crossing Borders Refugee Q&A Stall, and Maternal Health Night to name a few. On top of that, we also had an opportunity to organise a "Healthy Community" stall on Open Day to promote healthy lifestyle to the UNSW community. MSAP's involvement with this new AMSA Global Health initiative has huge potential to grow.

First year engagement is particularly significant to MSAP because it promotes sustainable support and engagement with global health within the new generation of aspiring medical professionals – one of MSAP's primary goals. It is encouraging for the team to see high first year attendance rates in many MSAP events this year, and we look ahead to the future of MSAP with great excitement.

GLOBAL HEALTH BRIEFING

The MSAP mail outs continued to address hot topics this year, educating our members on the pressing issues in the global health sphere. With eye-catching infographics we covered issues such as the Amazon fires, the anti-vaxxer movement and opioid crisis through a health lens. Not only did we brief members about the issues, we also provided them with links to further expand their knowledge and take action in the field. The mail out continues to be a key tool to ensure we fulfil our mission to educate and inspire.

MEDCAMP

Cost for 2019: \$20.46

Funding: MSAP Reserves

To many bright-eyed first years, "global health" may seem like a popular buzzword shrouded in mystery. MSAP's booth at MedCamp in March aimed to break this barrier, transforming the giant concept into small digestible comprehensible sections. Through a quick game of trivia, various students were exposed to surprising statistics and came face-to-face with real global health issues for the first time. We then introduced MSAP as an organisation, encouraging their participation in our various events like Birthing Kit Night and Global Health Short Course. We also encouraged many keen beans to sign up for subcommittee and First Year Rep positions, as well as the mailing list.

AMSA Global Health Initiative

AMSA Global Health Report

2019 has been another eventful year consisting of two AMSA Global Health Forums (AMSA GH Forum) and the annual Global Health Conference.

AMSA GH Forum is a unique opportunity for students from medical schools across Australia to socialise, collaborate and inspire one another. The first forum this year was held in Adelaide whilst the second was held in Brisbane. These forums focussed particularly on providing opportunities to upskill and discuss pertinent healthcare issues that we face on a global scale. Furthermore, GH representatives were provided a platform to troubleshoot issues that their respective GH group might be facing and brainstorm methods of increasing engagement and reducing barriers of entry to global health advocacy.



This year's Global Health Conference was held in Sydney at our very own UNSW Kensington campus. Hundreds of medical students from across Australia attended GHC 2019 with UNSW boasting a large delegation of 87 students. These students participated in the discussion of pertinent global health issues such as health in war, the global refugee crisis and sustainability in healthcare as well as challenging and stimulating breakout group activities.



Alongside all this, our other AMSA initiatives (AMSA Code Green and AMSA Crossing Borders) have had an exciting, productive and inspiring year. These will be further discussed below!

RED PARTY

Funding: *Expenditure handled by Western Sydney University (WSU)*



Red Party is an annual social event held by UNSW and WSU students; however, this year students from the newly opened Macquarie University medical school joined the foray. Overall 67 students attended the event and a total of \$515 was raised for Medical Action Myanmar.

Whilst attendance was not as high as it has been in previous years, we are taking this as an opportunity to revitalise this event in our calendar. We hope to shift to an event with a greater focus on advocacy and education alongside the opportunity to mix and mingle with students across NSW.

CROSSING BORDERS

MSAP Crossing Borders aims to reduce barriers to health for asylum seekers, refugees and recent migrants. Of note, we support the notion of the temporary transfer of offshore refugee patients requiring further medical treatment which cannot be provided in their offshore location, upon recommendation by Australian medical professionals. This was a policy point that directed much of our advocacy work in 2019.

2019 saw huge political upheaval in Australian immigration policy related to refugee and asylum seeker health, with the introduction, passing (despite opposition) and threat of repeal of the Medevac bill in parliament. Reflectively, MSAP Crossing Borders was involved in #BacktheBill campaigns calling for support of the Home Affairs Legislation Amendment (Miscellaneous Measures) Bill 2018 ("The Bill") and in particular the full amendment moved by Senator Tim Storer. We hosted letter writing campaigns to local MPs and headed the Sydney Palm Sunday Rally for the Detention Harms health march in April.

Two inaugural events in 2019 included the Crossing Borders Writing Competition and the Crossing Borders Interpreter Program: both of which we hope will be continued in future years.



NATIONAL JUSTICE PROJECT VOLUNTEER GROUP

The National Justice Project is a not-for-profit legal service. They aim to advance human rights by representing and giving voice to the vulnerable (including refugees and asylum-seekers) who would otherwise be unable to find legal representation. Volunteering with NJP is a tangible way to help in the fight for equity and the right to legal representation in Australia. Each year MSAP Crossing Borders coordinates the National Justice Project volunteer group. This group assists the NJP throughout the year by researching and building medical chronologies for cases that NJP has chosen to represent on behalf of disadvantaged and vulnerable peoples. Strict confidentiality and professional conduct is required from volunteers, who often have a heavy workload under time constraints and may work with distressing content. Clinical knowledge is required and students must have the necessary experience to participate. In 2019, MSAP conducted a selection process and recruited 50 passionate volunteers. These volunteers worked in core groups to organise, research and build client files for five major cases across the year. Each case involved over 1000 pages of documentation and were all successfully managed in under 8 weeks.

CROSSING BORDERS WRITING COMPETITION

This year Crossing Borders ran an essay and creative writing competition about health issues refugees face and the current political and medical response to the Medivac bill. This was an opportunity for students to increase their awareness of current health issues facing refugee and asylum seeker populations and put forward their ideas and solutions.

The creative writing sections were under the themes of: Health and Humanity, and Policy and Rhetoric. The questions for the essay writing competition were difficult, for example: Is it defensible for Australian medical professionals to be working within the immigration detention system? And: In recent years, Australia has dropped its multicultural portfolio in favour of a greater focus on national security and European leaders have claimed that the principle of multiculturalism has been an 'utter failure.' Has multiculturalism in Australia failed? What are the strengths and weaknesses of multiculturalism as a policy? Does it impact healthcare provision?

But UNSW medical students rose to the challenge and the quality of the entries were exceptional. Three places (first, second and third) and a special mention were awarded in each category and the winners were announced at the Crossing Borders Speaker night. Winning entries were published in the MSAP newsletter and winners received prizes valuing up to \$300.

CROSSING BORDERS SPEAKER NIGHT

Cost for 2019: \$384.85

Funding: Bake sale & MSAP Reserves

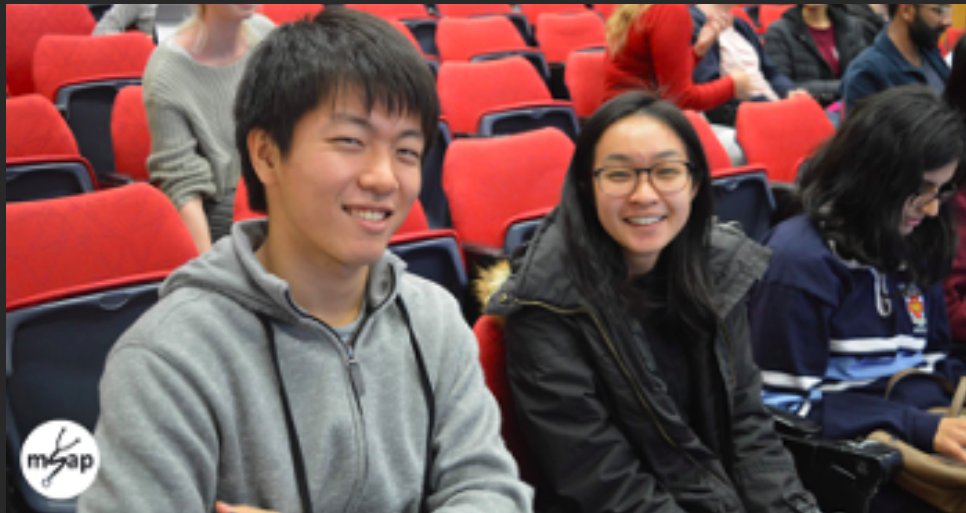
The Crossing Borders speaker night is held annually and aims to engage students interested in refugee and asylum seeker health and empower them to enact change. The 2019 Crossing Borders speaker night and panel discussion was held on Thursday the 8th of August from 5.30pm to 8pm, in CLB at UNSW Sydney. The evening was a success; in both the turnout and the discussion topics that were tackled by our speakers and guests.

This years speakers were B-Ann S. Echevarria (the NSW refugee health service's women's health project officer), Dr. Hasantha Gunasekera (a pediatrician working in the HARK refugee clinic at Sydney Children's Hospital Westmead and a Nauru whistleblower), and Dr. Barri Phatarfod (the founder of Doctors for Refugees). Unfortunately, refugee and inspiring advocate Hwvar Khoshnow was unable to attend.

After speeches by our three amazing speakers, there was a panel discussion on current topics; including the political climate, Medivac bill, and the role of medical professionals in this issue. Questions were invited from the audience, and the winners of the Crossing Borders Writing Competition were announced. Afterwards, speakers and guests mingled and enjoyed a light dinner featuring traditional dishes from the staff at Parliament on King – a café dedicated to improving the lives of refugees and asylum seekers through hospitality programs and charity work.



As always, we hope the speaker night can inspire future doctors to engage in discourses around refugee and asylum seekers, to counter misconceptions promoted by the media and to educate themselves in becoming medical advocates for culturally-appropriate and ethical practise.



INTERPRETER PROGRAM

Outline of the program

The 2019 Crossing Borders Interpreter Program - breaking down barriers in health was an inaugural program designed and directed by the 2019 Crossing Borders Coordinator Rohanna Stoddart. The aims of the program were:

- Understand the principles of communicating with patients from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds, and
- practise the skill of using interpreters in a simulated clinical setting.

Rationale behind the program

The refugee community is a politically and socially marginalised sub-group of the Australian population that present a particular set of healthcare needs. These include infectious diseases, poor nutrition, chronic non-communicable conditions, mental-health problems related to trauma and social problems including gender-based violence (Harris 2017). It is well-reported in the literature that the poor-health of this vulnerable population is compounded by barriers to accessing healthcare: especially that of the language barrier.

More generally, this barrier results in poorer health outcomes and health inequity in all culturally and linguistically diverse populations of Australia. Lack of appropriate communication from inadequate interpreter use between refugee and CALD patients and doctors results in limited understanding on both sides, difficulties in building essential trust, compromised treatment options, and ultimately poorer health outcomes. Apart from lack of training in how to effectively work with interpreters so as to maximise patient-doctor communication, the literature reports that interpreters are not widely known about or used amongst general practitioners (GPs).

In their policy directive, "Interpreters – Standard Procedures for Working with Health Care Interpreters (2017)", NSW Health acknowledge that effective communication and interpreter use "has a critical impact on a patient's experience of their treatment" and is "essential to ensure equitable social and health care outcomes," for all deaf or linguistically and culturally diverse patients. Despite this interpreter services remain underused, and frequently misunderstood by medical professionals.

Using an interpreter requires a specific skill set that should be taught at a medical student level but a lack of training and experience mean that they are both difficult to access and challenging to use for doctors. There is little to no focus on using interpreters in Australian medical school and the literature reports that most GPs are "inexperienced and unaware of interpreter services" (Phillips, 2010). The project Crossing Borders – breaking down language barriers in health aims to address these social inequities and to foster inclusion and diversity in refugee and culturally and linguistically diverse populations.



Goals of the program:

- The primary goal of the program is to produce a streamlined, feasible training program for medical students to effectively communicate with CALD patients by working with interpreters.
- A secondary goal is to educate medical students about barriers to healthcare for refugees and ethnic minorities in Australia.
- A tertiary goal is to assess the feasibility of the student-run program being adopted into the official medical curriculum.

Actual running of the program

The Crossing borders Interpreter program was a two-day free clinical interpreter training program open to phase 2 and 3 students. It was run twice, in two rounds, so as to include as many students as possible. Day 1 of each round consisted of a workshop where students learn necessary principles and practise truncated medical histories using interpreters. Day 2 was a practical simulated exam run in the style of the Integrated Clinical Examination (ICE). Students were given a stem prior to entering 6 examined stations and had to perform the required clinical exam or history using an interpreter to communicate. This was an added challenge for students, and many described unexpected difficulties involved with using an interpreter in a clinical setting. The examination day of each workshop was also very challenging for the student organisers, who had to coordinate 60 individuals with different roles through 6 different stations. So as to promote self-reflection and improvement, the interpreting and medical students were assessed in each station by both an interpreting student peer and a medical student peer, and their individual marks and feedback were provided to them at the conclusion of the program.

Overall, in feedback surveys students indicated that the program was found to be a challenging and very rewarding experience and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Over 90 medical and interpreting students were involved in the program. All students who responded to our survey indicated that they felt their confidence on using interpreters in a clinical setting was vastly improved at the end of the program.

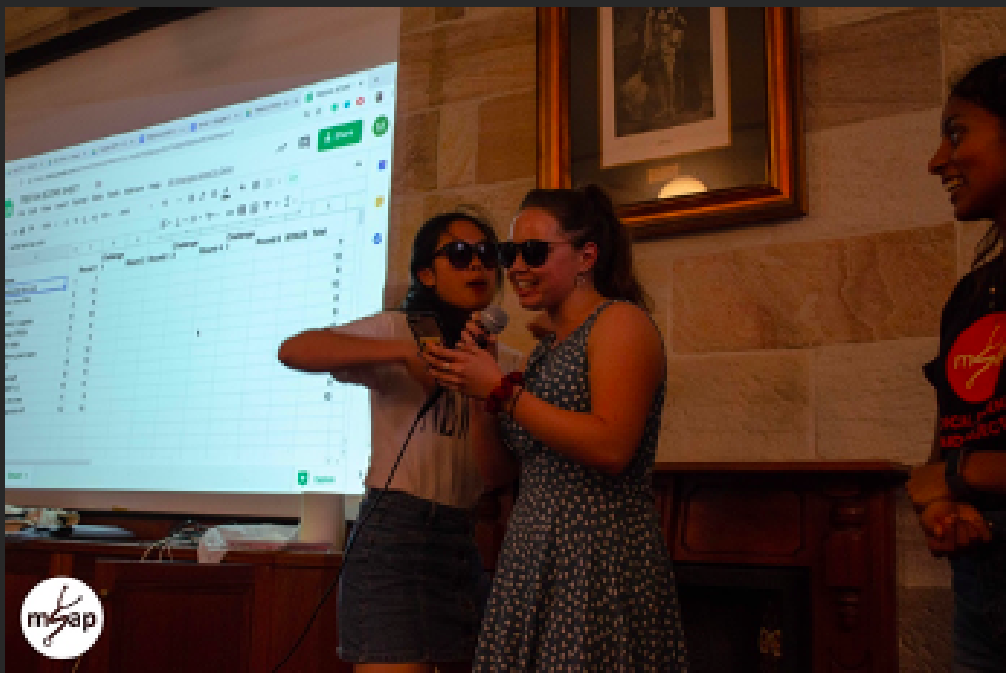
We ran the program in collaboration with the UNSW school of translating and interpreting, and with the interested advisory support of Dr. Silas Taylor (Convener of Clinical Skills, Undergraduate Medicine Program) and Mr Xiang Cheng (Assoc. Lecturer at UNSW school of interpreting and translating). We are very happy at how well the program ran and hope to continue it for future years, and even expand it to include other medical schools, and/or encourage its formal inclusion into the curriculum. By doing so we aim to equip UNSW medical graduates with the knowledge and skillset to foster a climate of inclusivity and diversity as health practitioners in the community. And our impact will be to empower a future generation of practitioners to reduce the health inequities that arise from language barriers in cross-cultural communication.

CODE GREEN

AMSA Code Green is a climate change and health initiative under AMSA Global Health. The UNSW branch of Code Green runs under MSAP with the aims of educating the medical student cohort on the health effects of climate change and advocating for environmentally-conscious practices. Given that climate change has been identified as the greatest threat to global health in the 21st century, the role of Code Green is increasingly important as human-induced greenhouse gas emissions directly accelerate the rate of climate change.

This year, Code Green successfully maintained an active and consistent role in public education and advocacy through events and weekly social media posts. In addition, Code Green solidified its commitment to overseeing the overall sustainability of MSAP by enforcing sustainable event-planning for various events including the Global Health Short Course and Birthing Kit Night. This was achieved by vegetarian-only catering, eliminating single-use plastic cutlery, and carbon offsetting. Moreover, the month of July was dedicated to a series of environment-focused initiatives under the umbrella of "Green July" which included Meatless Monday social media features, student interviews, and the Plastic Free July Social Media Challenge.

For the first time, Code Green also co-hosted a Sustainability Networking Lunch with student representatives from Western Sydney University (WSU) and Doctors for the Environment Australia (DEA) in July 2019. The event brought together student leaders from four medical schools in New South Wales for a round-table discussion about the various environment-related initiatives being implemented amongst different cohorts. The discussion was extremely fruitful and will hopefully pave the way for future collaborative projects and events.



TREEVIA

In March 2019, Code Green hosted the annual Treevia night, a trivia event that aims to raise awareness and funds for an organisation that supports environmental health. This year, a massive \$726.0 was raised for Planet Ark Environmental Foundation, an Australian not-for-profit organisation aimed at helping people, governments and businesses to reduce their environmental impact. The event was held in the Edmund Blacket Building of Prince of Wales Hospital and saw 117 students in attendance. In line with Code Green's vision and commitment to sustainability, Treevia was paperless and almost entirely plastic-free, made possible by the generosity of student volunteers who provided homemade packaging-free snacks for the event. Good fun was had by all, with prizes awarded to the top 3 participating teams thanks to our kind sponsors.



ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

A very exciting achievement by the Code Green portfolio was the introduction of the Environmental Policy in Spring 2019. Given the urgency of climate change, it was timely and necessary for MSAP to formalise its commitment to sustainability. The Environmental Policy outlines the Organisation's stance regarding sustainable event planning and defines the procedures pertaining to investments in carbon offsets. With the Policy in effect, all MSAP executive members will now be strongly encouraged to consider parameters concerning venue selection, food and catering, logistics and marketing, and waste management and energy consumption during event planning to ensure that the Organisation upholds a high standard of environmental consciousness. Furthermore, MSAP will now commit to bi-annual or annual investments in carbon offsets through donations received at all events. While the Policy is by no means perfect, it will hopefully reinforce the Organisation's social responsibility in reducing its environmental impact.

Financial Report

YEAR IN REVIEW

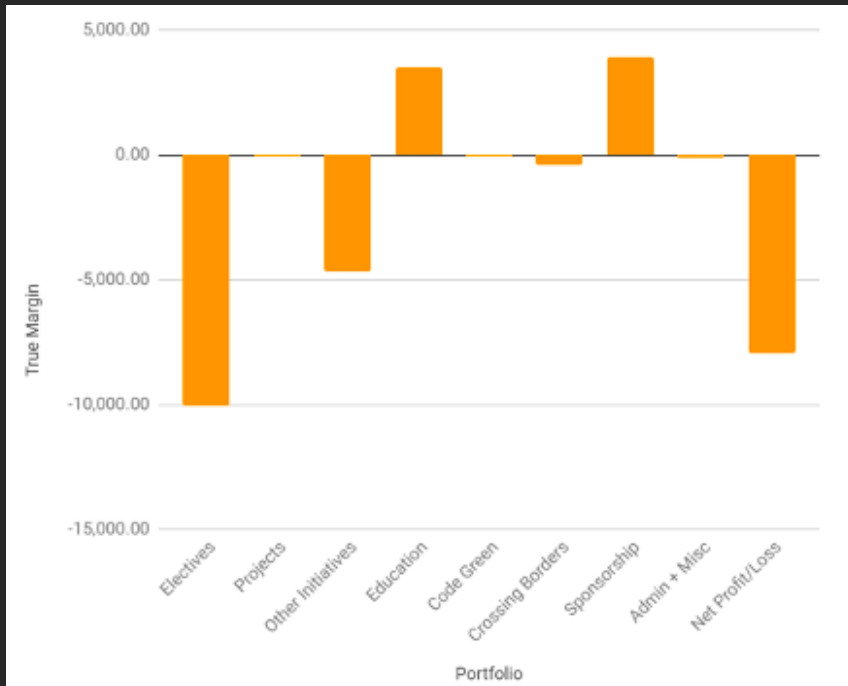
2019 saw a fairly hefty loss of \$7,974.26, especially compared to the net surplus made in 2018 (a gain of \$8,674.93). But this isn't a reflection of regression, if anything this year saw huge improvements in our ability to fundraise.

A lot of the losses sustained this year were in effect prior to commitments already made. The Electives Aid Program (EAP) was allocated a \$10,000 budget with no direct sponsorship or fundraising offsetting, the inaugural MSAP research scholarship was allocated a further \$2400 also with no offsetting and our continued relationship with Medical Action Myanmar (MAM) committed a further \$2800 for the 2019 year. The MAM donation is typically offset by Red Party, but this year cost a net \$2294.27 due to an unprecedented poor Red Party income.

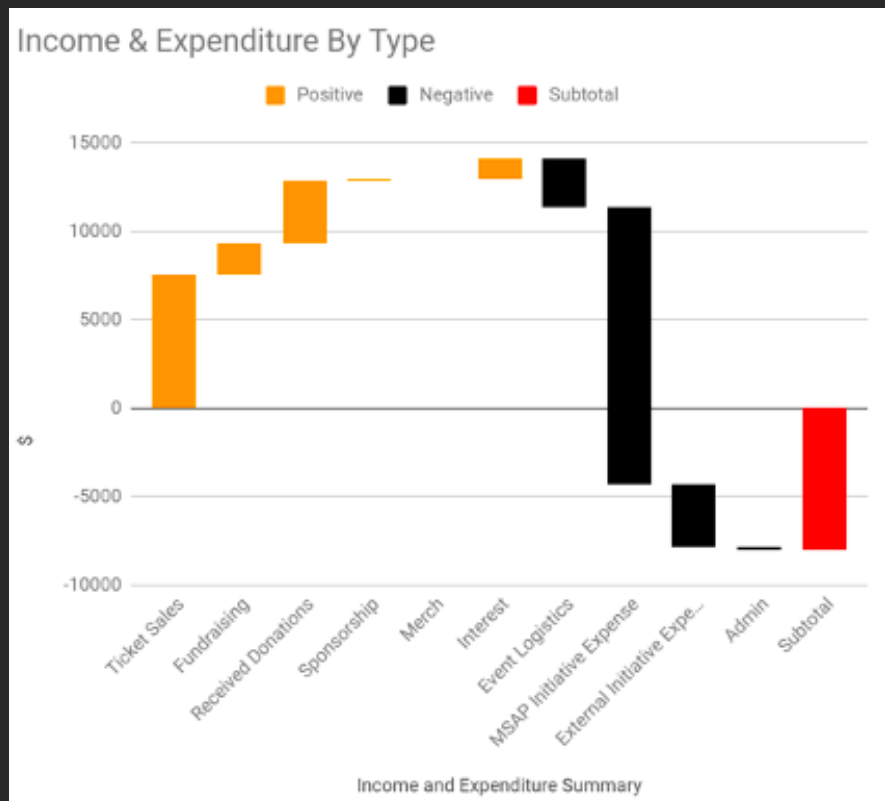
Yet despite all this, there was still a lot of progress behind the scenes. Our projects team was able to completely offset the costs of all their events all on their own efforts - for the first time in recent MSAP history. The Electives Aid Program has also put into place a fundraising campaign to help offset costs for the incoming 2019/20 Electives Aid Program cohort and MSAP has been added to MedSoc's prospectus - which should pay dividends in the 2020 year and beyond.

The graphs below break down MSAP's expenditures by Portfolio and type of income/expenditure respectively. As can be seen, the EAP and our external initiatives (namely MAM and the Research Scholarship) are the biggest cost drivers, despite the efforts of the Global Health Short Course and Sponsorship to offset this. In the second graph it's quite apparent that our largest expenditure belongs to MSAP's own initiatives - which is ideal and aligns with MSAP's mission. Ticket sales by far remain MSAP's biggest revenue driver. Opportunities that exist moving forwards include looking to increase fundraising given its currently small contribution and looking to cut down on MSAP donations to external programs.

MARGIN BY PORTFOLIO



INCOME & EXPENDITURE BY TYPE



FUTURE PROJECTIONS

Budget for the Electives program has been cut by 25% to \$7500 and by 50% for the Research Scholarship to \$1200, in the hopes of reducing losses for the 2020 year.

For the most part, event expenditure (except Birthing Kit Night, see below) and donation income is expected to stay more or less constant on the conservative side. It's hoped that the changes discussed above, along with the new alumni network and new donation page, will be able to help improve income for 2020.

CHALLENGES

The biggest challenge presented to 2020 is Birthing Kit Night - the cost of running the event at its current scale has increased from \$3000 to \$5000. Changes will have to be made to assure the viability of this event, since even with the old numbers, MSAP was barely able to break even on its cost.

Otherwise, similar challenges remain centered around increasing the sustainability of MSAP's events - reducing costs and increasing sponsorship and fundraising

MSAP Alumni

YEAR IN REVIEW

Sponsorship

This year was successful in securing sponsorship to support the majority of MSAP-run events, however was challenging in securing long-term sponsorship for the organisation overall. The past two years have seen a switch in sponsorship strategy, with no information about the sponsorship role prior to 2018. Thus, much of this year was spent exploring new avenues for sponsors. One way we achieved this was building on an excel document with details of previous sponsors and keeping up to date with any communication. We also tried to reach out to sponsors in similar industries to the events we were targeting, for example women's health companies for birthing kit night and maternal health night.

Some of the successes of the year included partnering with Amboss for GHSC, huge donations from Yogala for BKN, Grill'd fundraiser night for FFT and setting up an online partnership with Onya.

Alumni

This year featured a collaborative effort to re-establish MSAP's alumni network and reconnect with past alumni including past executive and general members. The first key part in doing so was to collate a list of known past alumni including those who had previously signed up for the alumni network or names of people who were known to be previously known to MSAP. Then, we attempted to get in touch with individual alumni about the prospect of being involved with MSAP including in a mentorship capacity, however this was not very successful. Other attempts at engaging alumni in 2019 included sending three alumni newsletters, inviting alumni to MSAP events, particularly launch night where there was an invitation to speak, and holding an annual alumni dinner.

Looking forward, the challenge will be to continue each year to engage MSAP alumni and keep accurate and up to date lists of executive members to enable ongoing contact with them in the future. Further, exploring the possibility of a mentorship program with alumni to foster those ongoing relationships.

The key behind the alumni network is to ensure continuity of information and ideas from previous executives and to foster donations and sponsorship from doctors who have been personally invested in MSAPs work at some point in their career.

Get Involved

1

Become an MSAP Member

MSAP Members receive a monthly Global Health Briefing which provides topical updates in global health as well as information about upcoming events and volunteering opportunities both within MSAP and externally. We welcome members to attend our events, volunteer and apply for Executive and Sub-committee positions.

Sign up here: <https://www.msap.org.au/get-involved/>

Stay in the loop on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/msapfb>

2

Donate to support our work

We truly value the support of all our donors who make it possible for us to make our impact. As MSAP is run entirely by student volunteers, 100% of donations go towards supporting our programs locally and internationally. Tax deductible donations can be made via UNSW Philanthropy Office. Simply visit <https://www.msap.org.au/donate-1/>

UNSW Philanthropy is unable to provide us with the contact details of donors for privacy reasons. If you have donated, please email us at chair@msap.org.au so that we can show our appreciation!